

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Michael COLLASIUS et al. Conf.: Unassigned
Appl. No.: NEW Group: Unassigned
Filed: September 26, 2001 Examiner: Unassigned
For: DEVICE FOR SELECTIVELY FILTERING UNDER REDUCED
PRESSURE AND FOR VACUUM DRYING SAMPLE LIQUIDS OR
DROPS OF SAMPLE LIQUIDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 27, 2001

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of this divisional application, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

**Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the
subject matter contained therein.**

Please add the following additional claim:

--19. A method for selectively filtering mixtures containing biopolymers
utilizing an apparatus containing compartments comprising inlet and outlet
openings of a carrier body under reduced pressure and for vacuum drying drops

of the mixtures present in the area of the outlet openings of the compartments,
Including

- a chamber (24) comprising an interior space (46) limited by a top wall (40), a bottom wall (38) and lateral walls (42, 44) connecting them,
- the top wall (40) comprising an opening (48) with an opening edge (52) whereon a closing lid (84) or the carrier body (26) can selectively be placed in a substantially gastight manner by means of outlet openings (32) directed towards the interior space (46) of the chamber (24),
one of the lateral walls being formed as an access lateral wall (44) which can be opened and closed substantially gastightly for introducing the carrier body (26) into the interior space (46) of the chamber (24), and
the bottom wall (38) comprising a drain (76, 78) for liquid exiting from the outlet openings (32) of the compartments (28) of the carrier body (26), and
- a vacuum pump (82) with a suction conduit (81) terminating in the interior space (46) of the chamber (24) for producing a first low pressure for drawing liquid samples through the outlet openings (32) of the compartments (28) with the carrier body (26) being placed on the opening edge (50) of the top wall (40) and the access lateral wall (44) of the chamber (24) being closed and for producing a second low pressure higher than the first low pressure for drying drops of liquid samples still present on the outlet openings (32) of the

compartments (28) with the carrier body (26) being located in the interior space (48) of the chamber (24) and the lid (84) being placed on the opening edge (50) of the top wall (40) as well as the access lateral wall (44) of the chamber (24) being closed, said method comprising separating, isolating and/or purifying biopolymers from said mixtures containing said biopolymers.--

REMARKS

Claims 15-19 are now pending in the instant application. Claim 19 is independent. These claims were drawn to a distinct species as identified in the parent application.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Mr. Joseph A. Kolasch, Registration No. 22,463 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or

1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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